

CHAPTER 1

Bachmann's Fellow Travelers

Some folks say using “guilt by association” on a presidential candidate is unfair . . . not Michele Bachmann:

Why isn't it appropriate to ask about the formative relationships he's had? The types of relationships that may have influenced Barack Obama's views on public policy and on government decision-making? Why is the media more intent on learning the type of plumbing license Joe the Plumber has than on exploring the obvious questions about Barack Obama's formative relationships with people such as the Rev. Jeremiah Wright and Bill Ayers—people with views far outside the mainstream, where most voters find themselves?

During the 2008 election, Michele Bachmann repeatedly called on the media to “investigate” the “formative associations” of Barack Obama.

The *Dump Bachmann* blog answered Michele Bachmann’s call for an investigation; however, we turned the focus of our investigation on the formative associations of . . . Michele Bachmann.

The Admiral

The Admiral blogs at *Lake Minnetonka Liberty*. Back in 2009, the Admiral wished someone would assassinate President Obama:

Somebody please! Do a Sirhan Sirhan on this pompous ass, willya?

The Admiral ranted about Congressman Barney Frank:

One of the men responsible for the financial collapse, Barney “Fudge Packer” Frank has the audacity to call Scalia a homophobe? First off, homophobe is just one of those made up liberal labels, we all know how liberals like to make up and assign labels to everything. Hey! Fudge Packer, do America a favor, hang yourself. It’s the right thing to do. Fruity bastard.

The Admiral wanted to purge the GOP:

We don’t want Democrat-lites polluting our party, we don’t want “moderates” interested in compromise and appeasement by “reaching across the aisle in a bipartisan way.” We want and need more people like Jesse Helms who wasn’t afraid to say, “NO!” and didn’t back down.

Enough is enough! Time to jettison the dead weight and bring in the real conservatives.

The Admiral thinks his congressman is a “wimp.” The Admiral likes Bachmann—and according to the Admiral, the admiration is mutual:

Since February I've had 3 or 4 direct communications with Michele Bachmann. Not her staff, but her. She's been more than helpful in giving me information and fulfilling any request that I may have, and I don't even live in her district. Regardless of how you may feel about her, she's a very gracious and accommodating person. She even granted me an interview request. And I can't get the time of day out of my own representative!

Bachmann has had only one town hall meeting with constituents since she was elected to Congress. But according to the Admiral, she has time for an extremist bigot who wishes somebody would assassinate the president. The Admiral still used violent language as recently as June 14, 2011, when blogging about President Obama: “This asshole of a president needs to be hung [*sic*] for treason.”

Barb Anderson

Barb Anderson is a researcher for the Minnesota Family Council and a member of the Parents Action League (PAL), a shadow group formed to oppose “the Gay Agenda” in the Anoka-Hennepin School District.

The Parents Action League is worried about “the pro-gay activist teachers,” “an increase in pro-gay curriculum materials,” and “the

health risks to students who are affirmed and labeled as ‘gay’ and who may participate in homosexual acts.”

The Parents Action League has put a lot of effort into hiding who its members are. There are no names associated with the group, though Barb Anderson, a Minnesota Family Council employee, has been active with promoting antigay hysteria within the Anoka-Hennepin School District. Some of Anderson’s letters to the editor are quoted on the PAL website.

Anderson was a guest on hate-monger Bradlee Dean’s radio show. On the show, she gloated about how as one person, she has become very powerful within the Anoka-Hennepin School District. Barb Anderson is also the vice president of Janet Boynes Ministries.

Barb Anderson and her husband are big contributors to Michele Bachmann’s campaigns.

In addition, Anderson is one of Michele Bachmann’s contributors who endorsed the following proclamation of the Alliance for the Separation of School and State (ASSS): “I proclaim publicly that I favor ending government involvement in education.”

Chris Baker

Chris Baker, a former radio host on KTLK, wanted to roll out a special welcome party for protesters to the 2008 Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota.

So we’ve been talking about police protection during the upcoming convention when all those stinky protesters are coming. There seems to be a big debate over whether or not police officers will be able to wear helmets, carry shields, use pepper spray and Tasers on this crowd. You know, I’ll tell you what works on a crowd like this—a machine gun, that always works very well.

Baker's sidekick chimed in, "Mow 'em down, baby!"

"You must have order, you cannot have a civilized society without order and if that means cracking a few skulls, so be it," Baker said. "A good ole boy network is what you need, and hand out some ax handles."

Bachmann appeared on Baker's show a bunch of times. The most memorable Bachmann quote from 2009 was: "We're running out of rich people in this country."

Former Minnesota State Representative Mark Olson (R-Big Lake)

While in the State Senate, Bachmann worked closely with GOP Representative Mark Olson in the House on his wacky wing-nut crusades: the marriage amendment, Personal Rapid Transit, monkey-wrenching real transit. Bachmann and Representative Olson coauthored a bill inspired by Christian revisionist historian David Barton to support faith-based history in the public schools. In an audio clip from Bachmann's weird speech at the 2006 "Gala" for Bradlee Dean's ministry, she talked about the bill she and Olson championed in the Minnesota Legislature.

Bachmann also supported Olson's bizarre Rapid Transit boondoggle. Like Olson, Bachmann opposed reality-based transit such as the very successful Hiawatha Light Rail Line and the Northstar Commuter Line.

Olson had an anger-management problem. Early in his legislative career, he lost his temper at a legislative aide in an incident that was unbecoming; he was reprimanded by his caucus leader.

Five days after Olson was reelected in 2006, he was arrested for repeatedly pushing down his wife, Heidi, during an argument. According to a media report,

“State Representative Mark Olson was arrested Sunday and is in Sherburne County Jail facing charges of domestic abuse,” Sherburne County Sheriff’s Department chief deputy Scott Gudmanson said.

“Sherburne County authorities were called to the Big Lake Township home Olson shares with his wife, Heidi, at 20945 Sherburne County Road 43 about 5 p.m. Sunday,” Gudmanson said. “Sherburne County asked Blaine Police Department to arrest Olson at a residence in Blaine.”

Olson was convicted of one count of misdemeanor domestic assault with the intent to cause fear. Sherburne County District Judge Alan Pendleton sentenced Olson to two years’ probation and required him to pay \$400 in fines, as well as court costs.

Olson refused to plead at his arraignment and refused to leave the legislature. He was ejected from the Minnesota GOP House Caucus, but he continued to rant and rave on the House floor while other legislators cringed. During one session, Olson was caught on video raving about suicide and “death, death, death!”

After his conviction on one count of domestic assault, Olson declined to run again for his House seat and instead announced he would run for the Minnesota Senate District 16 seat vacated by Betsy Wergin. He was endorsed at the Minnesota SD16 Convention last summer and again recently after he lost the primary. The Minnesota GOP Senate Caucus wants nothing to do with Olson. Even Republican operative and former Bachmann campaign consultant Michael Brodkorb and Senator Norm Coleman threw Mark Olson under the bus.

And where was Michele Bachmann’s condemnation of her old pal Representative Mark Olson? Where was Bachmann’s “titanium spine” when it comes to denouncing the Minnesota GOP’s poster boy for domestic violence? . . . (sound of crickets)

Olson lost his race for the Senate as a write-in candidate. Right-wing blogger Gary Gross of *Let Freedom Ring* had this to say about Representative Mark Olson:

I'd say that getting convicted of Domestic Assault-Misdemeanor-Commits Act With Intent to Cause Fear of Immediate Bodily Harm or Death fits most people's definition of depravity or vile, shameful, or base character.

I'm disgusted with Mr. Olson. It's apparent that Mr. Olson picks and chooses which rules, laws and promises he'll obey and which ones he'll ignore. What type of lawmaker picks which laws he'll abide by and which he'll ignore? Does Olson think that he's above the law? For that matter, does he think he should be exempted from keeping his promises?

Mark Olson returned to the capital as a lobbyist for a would-be Personal Rapid Transit [PRT] vendor proposing a \$100 million pod transport project in Coon Rapids.

Bradlee Dean

Bradley Dean Smith, aka Bradlee Dean, is the longhaired, tattooed head of what used to be called the You Can Run But You Cannot Hide Ministry and has been renamed You Can Run But You Cannot Hide International. He is also the drummer for the heavy metal Christian band Junkyard Prophet. Bradlee Dean made headlines when he gave a prayer that questioned President Obama's belief in Christianity, while dressed in a tracksuit at the Minnesota Legislature. Bradlee Dean and Larry Klayman sued MSNBC host Rachel Maddow and *Minnesota Independent* reporter Andy Birkey. (More about Bradlee Dean in chapter 6).

Janet Boynes

Michele Bachmann's ex-lesbian sidekick Janet Boynes is a promoter of the "pray-away-the-gay" movement and a close friend of Michele and Marcus Bachmann. Boynes writes books, appears on Christian radio and television shows, and gives lectures about how she went from gay to straight with the help of God.

She testified at a Minnesota Senate hearing that legalized gay marriage would have dire public health consequences: spreading AIDS and "gay bowel syndrome."

Here's Boynes's endorsement of Bachmann posted on the right-wing blog *Look True North*:

I've known Michele for 4 years, and consider her a good friend. During the RNC convention, talk show host Laura Ingraham broke her rule of no endorsements to support Michele Bachmann's re-election campaign. I was invited to the event, and it was great that Laura saw in Michele what I have these past four years: that her heart is right and she is a woman of integrity.

It breaks my heart to see the condemnation by the media who have taken Michele's words out of context in her interview with Chris Matthews (who we all know is a liberal Obama cheerleader). They are all trying to shut her campaign down.

But not if I can help it. And those of you who know Michelle's [*sic*] heart. You can judge her from the video or judge what she's done these past two years for her district. I choose the latter, and hope you will too. Michele cares for people and doesn't want them taken advantage of. She stands strong for conservative values, and liberals (with the media's help) are making this molehill into a mountain to help defeat her.

I'm Janet Boynes, and I approve Michele Bachmann's message 100%. Please give her your support to get her re-elected.

Andrew Breitbart

Andrew Breitbart runs a bunch of sleazy right-wing websites that spread sensational news and gossip. Breitbart's websites are responsible for infamous escapades like the ACORN videos in which his reporter James O'Keefe dressed up as a pimp, and the video of a speech by U.S Department of Agriculture employee Shirley Sherrod that was edited to make her appear to make a racist remark. In 2011, Sherrod announced she was suing Breitbart for defamation.

Bachmann, of course, is a proud member of the rogues gallery that infests Breitbart's website, Big Government.

In an interview with Michele Bachmann by columnist and radio host Ben Shapiro posted on Breitbart's Big Government website, Shapiro suggested that Barack Obama was the worst president in U.S. history.

Shapiro: Is President Obama better or worse than Jimmy Carter.

Bachmann: Worse. Easily worse.

Shapiro: I agree. So far, you'd have to say he's the worst president in United States history . . .

Bachmann: No question. No question.

Shapiro: . . . with the possible exception of James Buchanan.

In a video featuring Andrew Breitbart, he obsequiously praised Michele Bachmann: "This is a true warrior. This is a person you'd

want to march to battle with. This is not a person who is looking at polls to decide what the right thing to do is. This is a person with a moral compass.”

Marcus Bachmann

Marcus Bachmann is Michele’s husband and would be the first “First Dude” in the White House. Marcus runs Bachmann & Associates Inc., a Christian counseling clinic. Marcus denies reports that his clinic practices pray-away-the-gay “reparative therapy” on homosexual patients. *Psychology Today* had an entry, since removed, on their website on Marcus Bachmann’s counseling clinic that said yes on whether the clinic has “Gay/Lesbian expertise.” The entry also claims that Bachmann & Associates will counsel on “gay/lesbian issues.” Marcus Bachmann gave a presentation titled “The Truth about the Homosexual Agenda” at the antigay Pastors’ Summit. Bachmann & Associates also takes Medicaid reimbursement and many other major health insurance plans, while not providing health insurance to its own employees.

In a November 20, 2006, *Star Tribune* article titled “Bringing a Touch of Haute to the U.S. House,” reporter Kim Ode quoted Michele Bachmann describing the fashion help she gets from Marcus:

Shopping help comes from another quarter, as well. Before Vice President Dick Cheney’s visit this past summer, Bachmann’s husband, Marcus, hit the stores—“he’s got a good sense of style”—and came home with “a sleek, simple hourglass dress with a yoke collar in winter white.” He even bought a matching coat and shoes. “I just slipped it on.”

Marcus also goes on “dad dates” with his daughters and helps pick their prom dresses.

Jason Lewis

Jason Lewis is a right-wing radio talk show host, a failed congressional candidate, and a special friend of Michele Bachmann. When Bachmann launched her campaign in Waterloo, Iowa, in July 2011, Jason Lewis gave the warm-up speech.

Lewis came to Bachmann’s defense when *Star Tribune* reporter Eric Black (now at *MinnPost*) reported Bachmann’s remarks to a *Saint Cloud Times* reporter about a secret Iranian plan to carve up Iraq. Lewis was incensed that Black learned of the interview from the *Dump Bachmann* blog.

In a tirade lasting four minutes, Lewis ranted about the “angry lesbians and radical pacifists” of *Dump Bachmann* and how they “planted” the story in the newspaper and that there was no difference between *Dump Bachmann* and the *Star Tribune*. Lewis finished up his screed by praising *Dump Bachmann* for getting the word out about his favorite congresswoman:

I’m just tellin’ you folks that this is the way a hit job starts. The anti-partisan, radical left, Bachmann looney tunes, plant a story in a local media, Drudge grabs it, puts it on his website, Rush Limbaugh reads it, and all of a sudden Michele Bachmann has been tarnished for saying something that everybody has been saying for months. Great job for the Dump Bachmann folks, because they got their lackeys disguised as journalists at the *Strib* to do their dirty work. In fact, they didn’t even wait for a quote—a quote from Bachmann.

Lewis is now a columnist for the *Star Tribune*, the very newspaper he accused of being in cahoots with the angry lesbians and radical pacifists of *Dump Bachmann*.

Larry Klayman

Bradlee Dean's lawyer Larry Klayman appeared on Michele Tafoya's WCCO radio show on July 27, 2011, to talk about his defamation lawsuit against MSNBC. Klayman said he and his client Bradlee Dean and Michele Bachmann don't want children "indoctrinated" in the "homosexual lifestyle" because it is a "very unhappy lifestyle and an unnatural lifestyle and something that God did not intend to occur." Klayman added that he believes homosexuality is "perverted" and explained what the lawsuit is really about:

What she [Maddow] said, and this is what is going to end her career. Her career is over, Michele. What she said is that Michele Bachmann and Bradlee Dean and other conservative Christians are bloodthirsty, that they want bloodletting in the culture war, and Christians are not satisfied that they have not killed enough lesbians and gays.

Regarding Maddow's career, Klayman was less than prescient. Fewer than two weeks later, MSNBC signed Maddow to a new multiyear contract long before her current contract had ended.

According to his January 2011 column for *World Net Daily*, Klayman is a close pal of Michele Bachmann who was "unafraid to be vilified by the left." Klayman continued to gush about Bachmann:

If you need to understand one thing about Michele, its [*sic*] not just that she is articulate, charismatic and one

of the two most attractive conservative women in national politics today, but she is a mother who has raised not only her own children, but 23 foster children—yet still pursued her ambitions and career goals. Michele is the real deal. She may be modest in physical height, but she stands tall on principles.

Klayman transcribes another encounter with the congresswoman that reads like it was copied from a Harlequin bodice-ripper:

I became reacquainted with Michele last fall when I visited her in her office in the Rayburn Building. As I waited in the lobby, I remember her “bouncing” out of her office like an energetic, enthusiastic staffer, quickly walking over to me and with a warm smile holding out her hand. Looking into her eyes, I told her how nice it was to meet her. In a quick response she quipped, smiling, “Larry, I met you many years ago at CNP!”

The CNP Klayman refers to, the Council for National Policy, is a group of conservatives that gathers in private four times a year to discuss policy.

Klayman invited Bachmann and Alan Keyes to a press conference on November 17, 2010, to support the People’s Mujahideen Organization of Iran (PMOI, also known as the MEK), asking that they be removed from the U.S. State Department list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations.

James O’Keefe

Back in 2009, Bachmann praised Breitbart-brat James O’Keefe at a right-wing freak show called the “How to Take Back America

Conference.” “Defunding the left is going to be so easy,” said Bachmann, “and it’s going to solve so many of our problems.” She praised James O’Keefe III and Hannah Giles, the people behind the ACORN sting. “Hannah and James used Saul Alinsky’s ‘Rules for Radicals’—that’s the community organizer’s bible—against ACORN! Brilliant!”

Bill Pulkrabek

Bill Pulkrabek is one of Michele Bachmann’s early mentors. Pulkrabek managed Bachmann’s first campaign for the state Senate.

In 2009, Pulkrabek gave this quote to the City Pages:

“I don’t think she has any weaknesses,” says Bill Pulkrabek, Bachmann’s former campaign manager, now a Washington County commissioner. “DFL activists are blinded by their hatred for this woman. That’s because she’s not afraid to throw gas on the fire. She’s not afraid to whip up our side.”

Pulkrabek was also quoted in a recent AP profile of Bachmann:

“Early on, Bachmann showed potential as an articulate and magnetic speaker,” said Bill Pulkrabek, a Republican leader who helped assemble the school board slate.

“People had been predicting her demise since Day One: ‘Oh, she’s a radical, she’s too far right, she’s too outspoken, she’s too inflammatory,’” Pulkrabek said. “The fact of the matter is, with the exception of the first race, she wins.”

Pulkrabek, a Washington County commissioner, once referred to homeless people as “jackasses.” Pulkrabek was arrested and

jailed on Memorial Day 2011 on suspicion of felony domestic assault by strangulation and misdemeanor fifth-degree assault. He was charged with misdemeanor domestic assault for allegedly choking his girlfriend with his forearm and dragging her down the stairs by her hair, according to the Woodbury, Minnesota, police report.

GOP blogger Andy Aplikowski took note of Pulkrabek's bad temper in this post from 2005:

Going in, I thought Ron had it. I really did. Heck I was campaigning for him, without being asked. I truly felt that it was not right to make a change at this time considering the options. Pulkrabek showed the fact that he was not strong enough to be a party leader. His speech was all over the place, and he came across well, bent. He had an axe to grind and he did it. His message was not fully developed. He just wasn't happy with the Eibensteiner [*sic*]. Obviously the message of the day, but not enough alone. He got emotional during his speech and lost his cool.

John A. Stormer

A favorite author of the right-wing nut John Birch Society is also a fan of Michele Bachmann. John A. Stormer of Florissant, Missouri, the author of the highly popular (among the black helicopter crowd) 1960s anticommunism screed *None Dare Call It Treason*, gave Bachmann's congressional campaign \$225 in the 2005–2006 election cycle.

None Dare Call It Treason, published in 1964, sold 6 million copies when it came out, largely through John Birch Society chapters and their communist conspiracy-prone members. The book's

chief premise was that the United States was losing the Cold War because communist subversives had heavily infiltrated it. Stormer's updated edition, *None Dare Call It Treason . . . 25 Years Later*, and another book, *None Dare Call It Education*, currently are available through the John Birch Society bookstore, American Opinion Book Services, and probably can be found on the Bachmann family bookshelves.

Stormer is a retired minister and Christian school superintendent and the past president of the Missouri Association of Christian Schools. He's also a past member of the Council for National Policy described by the *New York Times* as "a secretive club whose few hundred members include Dr. James C. Dobson of Focus on the Family, the Rev. Jerry Falwell of Liberty University and Grover Norquist of Americans for Tax Reform."

Stormer has been linked to violent extremist groups in Missouri.

According to a 1999 report by the Missouri Citizen Education Fund, Stormer was a U.S. Taxpayers Party (USTP) national committeeman. "The USTP has become a clearing house for dissatisfied groups on the far right—members of David Duke's Populist Party, Randall Terry's Operation Rescue, the militant Christian Right, and the militia Movement," the report states.

Stormer holds prayer sessions in Jefferson City for Missouri legislators. He also contends that tolerance of homosexuality and abortion is bringing God's judgment on America in the form of natural disasters. (*St. Louis Journalism Review*, November 1995)

Stormer and Bachmann are connected in other ways beyond his campaign contributions to her.

Stormer has signed the proclamation of the Alliance for the Separation of School and State (ASSS) to abolish all government

education. Bachmann took more than \$51,000 from signatories of the ASSS proclamation.

Stormer spoke at an EdWatch conference in St. Louis, a group that Bachmann has spoken to on many occasions. Fellow CNP member and heavy Bachmann contributor John Scribante is a board member and a former president of EdWatch.

Mary Kiffmeyer

Mary Kiffmeyer was elected to replace Mark Olson in Minnesota House District 16B. Kiffmeyer had previously served two terms as Minnesota's secretary of state. A legislative audit found that she overpaid her staff by \$190,000 and claimed excessive reimbursement for mileage. Kiffmeyer was defeated by Mark Ritchie in 2006.

Kiffmeyer, like Bachmann, attended and gave a speech at the 2006 fund-raiser for Bradlee Dean.

Mary Kiffmeyer also had to defend writings about "racial purity" on her think tank Minnesota Majority's website.

Kiffmeyer said that the page dealing with health care and its mention of racial purity must be understood in context. That phrase, she said, is simply descriptive.

"That's a genetic term," said Kiffmeyer, who is a nurse by training. "It does matter when you are doing medical studies."

Drew Emmer, the communications director for the organization, said that Kiffmeyer is the organization's executive director, and Jeff Davis, who has been active in pushing for a Minnesota antigay marriage amendment, is the president (*St. Paul Pioneer Press*).

Mary Kiffmeyer is married to Ralph Kiffmeyer. A former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, Ralph Kiffmeyer tried and failed to pass legislation that would outlaw the sale of sex toys, earning him the sobriquet "Anti-Dildo Crusader."

Phyllis Schlafly

Phyllis Schlafly is America's best-known female antifeminist and antigay proponent. Schlafly is most well known for her vigorous and successful campaign opposing the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), based largely on the argument that the ERA would require same-sex bathrooms. According to her website, in her book *The Supremacists*, "Schlafly reveals the astonishing scope of judicial ambition. Without any constitutional mandate, judges have banned the public recognition of God, redefined marriage, undermined national sovereignty, released a flood of pornography, institutionalized feminist dogma, interfered in elections, and handicapped law enforcement." Schlafly has a gay son and believes married women cannot be raped by their husbands. Schlafly's Eagle Forum Political Action Committee has contributed \$26,000 directly to Bachmann's political campaigns from 2005 to 2010 and has spent thousands more on behalf of her campaigns.

Orly Taitz

Orly "Queen of the Birthers" Taitz once posed for a picture with Michele Bachmann and was miffed that it went viral on the Internet.

Shortly after I posted this picture with Congresswoman Michelle [*sic*] Bachmann, it was re-posted on a number of Obama propaganda Marxist disinformation blogs. One of them "Obama conspiracy theories" was calling it "Birds of a feather" and posted this comment above. Apparently they compared picture I took with Michelle [*sic*] Bachmann to an invitation to spend a day in NY with Bill Clinton, which I posted previously. If these

bloggers don't understand a difference between the two, they are really brain-dead.

Tony Perkins

Family Research Council president Tony Perkins has been condemned for speaking to America's leading white supremacist organization, the Council of Concerned Citizens, and to former Ku Klux Klan Grand Wizard David Duke. Bachmann featured Tony Perkins as a keynote speaker on April 20, 2005, at her anti-gay marriage rally on the steps of the Minnesota state capitol building. The *Nation* magazine's April 26, 2005, web issue detailed Perkins's unseemly association with the CCC and the KKK:

Just four years ago, Tony Perkins spoke before the Louisiana chapter of the CCC. This is the successor to the racist White Citizens Councils, which fought integration in the south in the 1950s. And in 1996, when Perkins was running a campaign for a Republican U.S. Senate candidate in Louisiana, he paid former KKK Grand Wizard David Duke \$82,500 for his mailing list and was fined \$3,000 by the Federal Election Commission for trying to hide his payment to Duke.

David Strom

Former Taxpayers League president David Strom once called Michele Bachmann a "moderate." On Channel 5's *At Issue*, he referred to Michele Bachmann and Cheri Pierson Yecke as "moderate women."

In Strom's *Our House Blog*, he blamed liberals for "failing the body politic" for attacking Bachmann personally. Strom failed to

see how Bachmann's attack on the personal relationships of gay people could provoke such a response:

I defy anyone to find an example of Bachmann attacking any of her opponents for their private sexual activities. It doesn't happen. Bachmann has a passionate position on a matter of legitimate public policy debate (yes, it is a legitimate matter of debate—in fact, if it weren't a legitimate matter of debate, the proponents of gay marriage would lose immediately because huge majorities oppose them at the moment), but she NEVER EVER attacks her opponents on matters of personal behavior or temperament [*sic*]. She sticks to the arguments.

Strom fails to mention that one of Bachmann's arguments was that being gay was “from Satan.” Strom complained the opponents of the marriage amendment were nasty to question Bachmann's motives and her honesty. Strom also vouched for Bachmann's humanity:

I've personally seen Michele reach out to her opponents on gay marriage and engage them on a very basic human level, disagreeing on the merits, but treating them with respect.

Treating people with respect by attacking their right to marry the person they love?

Robert Battle

Robert Battle is the pastor of the Berean Church in St. Paul. The *New York Times* quoted Battle saying the following about his pal Michele Bachmann:

“She stood up as a Christian,” said Bob Battle, pastor of the Berean Church of God in Christ here. “She made her point of view known, and she gave Christians a voice.”

In a letter to the *Pioneer Press*, Battle defended Michele Bachmann:

Upon reading your editorial endorsements in Minnesota House races last month, I was troubled by the editorial staff’s opinion that same-sex marriage is a “non-issue” in Minnesota, and its characterization of state senator Michele Bachmann as “divisive” and “hard right.”

Battle wound up his opinion piece by invoking the memory of Martin Luther King to support his own long-standing antigay bigotry:

In “Letter from Birmingham City Jail,” Dr. Martin Luther King stated, “A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law or the law of God.” Clearly marriage as between one man and one woman fits these criteria. And Bachmann is right in her dedication to these principles.

Appalling . . . but, just what you would expect from a fellow traveler of Michele Bachmann!

